



Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., addresses the audience gathered during the Fancy Farm Picnic at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Fancy Farm, Ky., Aug. 6, 2022.

Associated Press

## GOP's new committee leaders prepare blitz of investigations

By KEVIN FREKING  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — House Republicans are promising aggressive oversight of the Biden administration once they assume the majority next year, with a particular focus on the business dealings of presidential son Hunter Biden, illegal immigration at the U.S.-Mexico border and the originations of COVID-19.

Republicans won't have enough votes to advance key legislative priorities if there is no Democratic buy-in, but their oversight

of government agencies could put Democrats on the defensive and dampen support for the Biden administration going into the 2024 presidential elections.

Some of the lawmakers expected to lead those investigations once House Republicans select their new committee chairs:

**JUDICIARY'S BIG ROLE**

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, is expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

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## Aruba Dolphins won several medals at Naco 2022 Santo Domingo



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# GOP's new committee leaders prepare blitz of investigations

Continued from Front

Jordan helped form and then lead the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus and voted on Jan. 6, 2021, to object to counting Pennsylvania's electoral vote. President Donald Trump thought so highly of Jordan that he presented the congressman with the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Judiciary Committee handles oversight of the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and issues such as crime, immigration and protection of civil liberties. It's typically one of the most partisan committees on Capitol Hill, yet Jordan's combative style stands out even there. The committee would be the place where any effort would begin to impeach a member of the Biden administration, as some Republicans have been proposing for Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Jordan's inquiries to the administration in recent months make clear the committee will investigate the FBI's execution of a search warrant at Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence. He has also advocated for a wide-ranging look at the Biden administration's im-

migration policies and the origins of COVID-19.

"All those things need to be investigated just so you have the truth," Jordan told conservative activists last summer at a conference. "Plus that will frame up the 2024 race when I hope and I think President Trump is going to run again and we need to make sure that he wins."

## OVERSIGHT'S LONG LIST

Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., is expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee and has made clear that investigating President Joe Biden's son Hunter will be one of his top priorities. The Republicans say their investigation of Hunter Biden's business dealings is to "determine whether these activities compromise U.S. national security and President Biden's ability to lead with impartiality."

Comer has also been laying the groundwork for investigating the situation on the U.S.-Mexico border. He sent a letter to Mayorkas seeking an array of documents and communications pertaining to the administration's border policy. "We cannot endure another year of the Biden Administration's failed border policies," the letter said.

But that's just a slice the

committee's focus.

"We're going to investigate between 40 and 50 different things," Comer said Sunday on NBC's "Meet The Press." "We have the capacity. We'll have 25 members on the committee, and we're going to have a staff close to 70. So we have the ability to investigate a lot of things."

The federal government's spending in response to COVID-19 will also be scrutinized. "We believe that there have been hundreds of billions, if not trillions of dollars wasted over the past three years, so that spans two administrations, in the name of COVID."

"We want to have hearings on that. We want to try to determine what happened with the fraudulent unemployment insurance funds, the fraudulent PPP loan funds, some of this money that's being spent for state and local governments in the COVID stimulus money," Comer said.

## AFGHANISTAN IN FOCUS

Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, is expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which will be investigating the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. McCaul reiterated a request in mid-October for various documents and directed the State Department to pre-



Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, speaks before former President Donald Trump at a rally at Dayton International Airport on Nov. 7, 2022, in Vandalia, Ohio.

Associated Press

serve all records related to the chaotic withdrawal, which included the loss of 13 U.S. service members killed during a suicide bombing attack.

"The way it was done was such a disaster and such a disgrace to our veterans that served in Afghanistan. They deserve answers to the many questions we have," McCaul said on ABC's "This Week." He added: "Why wasn't there a plan to evacuate? How did it go so wrong?"

## SPOTLIGHT ON ENERGY AND TAXES

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., is expected to serve as the next chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has the broadest jurisdiction of any authorizing committee in

Congress, from health care to environmental protection to national energy policy. Republicans on the committee have already spent months investigating the origins of COVID-19 and are expected to continue that work in the next Congress. Reps. Jason Smith, R-Mo., Adrian Smith, R-Neb., and Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., have expressed interest in serving as the next chairman of the tax-writing House Ways & Means Committee, which has already been seeking documents related to the spending in the nearly \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package that Democrats passed early last year. The committee also has oversight over the IRS, a frequent target of GOP scrutiny and scorn. □



Light illuminates part of the Supreme Court building at dusk on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court said Monday in a letter to Congress that there is "nothing to suggest" that Justice Samuel Alito violated ethics

standards following a report that a 2014 decision he wrote was leaked in advance of its announcement.

The letter was in response to

## Letter: 'Nothing to suggest' Alito violated ethics standards

an inquiry from lawmakers following a New York Times report earlier this month.

That report said that a former anti-abortion leader was told in advance the outcome of the *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores* case involving health care coverage of contraception.

In a 5-4 decision, Alito wrote that some companies with religious objections can avoid the contraceptives requirement in President Barack Obama's health care legislation.

Earlier this year, Alito's opinion in a different case, the court's decision overturning

*Roe v. Wade*, was leaked. But while that leak was a public disclosure of the text, the new report alleged that in the 2014 case, the disclosure wasn't as broad.

In the Times story, Rev. Rob Schenck said he was told the outcome of the 2014 decision by Gail Wright, a donor to an organization he headed who had dined with Alito and his wife. In the story, Wright denied obtaining or sharing any information and Alito also emphatically denied disclosing the case's outcome in a statement.

The Supreme Court's let-

ter Tuesday to Congress included language Alito used previously denying the case's outcome had been disclosed.

"There is nothing to suggest that Justice Alito's actions violated ethics standards," Supreme Court legal counsel Ethan Torrey wrote in a letter addressed to Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island and Rep. Hank Johnson of Georgia. The two Democrats chair courts subcommittees.

Alito was appointed to the high court in 2006 by President George W. Bush. □



# Supreme Court wrestles with Biden's deportation policy

By **MARK SHERMAN**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court on Tuesday wrestled with a partisan-fing dispute over a Biden administration policy that would prioritize deportation of people in the country illegally who pose the greatest public safety risk. It was not clear after arguments that stretched past two hours and turned highly contentious at times whether the justices would allow the policy to take effect, or side with Republican-led states that have so far succeeded in blocking it. At the center of the case is a September 2021 directive from the Department of Homeland Security that paused deportations unless individuals had committed acts of terrorism, espionage or "egregious threats to public safety." The guidance, issued after Joe Biden became president, updated a Trump-era policy that removed people in the country illegally regardless of criminal history or community ties. On Tuesday, the administration's top Supreme Court lawyer told the justices that federal law does "not create an unyielding mandate to apprehend and remove" every one of the more than 11 million immigrants living in the country illegally.

Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar said it would be "incredibly destabilizing on the ground" for the high court to require that. Congress has not given DHS enough money to vastly increase the number of people it holds and deports, the Biden administration has said.

But Texas Solicitor General Judd Stone told the court that the administration violated federal law requiring the detention of people who are in the U.S. illegally and who have been convicted of serious crimes.

Chief Justice John Roberts was among the conservative justices who pushed back strongly on the Biden administration's arguments. "It's our job to say what the law is, not whether



**An immigrant considered a threat to public safety and national security waits to be processed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at the ICE Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles, after an early morning raid, June 6, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

er or not it can be possibly implemented or whether there are difficulties there, and I don't think we should change that responsibility just because Congress and the executive can't agree on something ... I don't think we should let them off the hook," he said.

Yet Roberts, in questioning Stone, also called Prelogar's argument compelling. "It's impossible for the executive to do what you want it to do, right?" Roberts asked.

Roberts wasn't totally satisfied when Stone said the number of people potentially affected total 60,000 to 80,000.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh said that whatever the actual number, "the resources still aren't there."

The court's three liberal justices, on the other hand, were sympathetic to the Biden administration's arguments. Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, made clear they believed that Texas and Louisiana, which joined Texas in suing over the directive, weren't even entitled to bring their case.

The case is the latest example of a Republican litigation strategy that has succeeded in slowing Biden administration initiatives by going to GOP-friendly courts.

Kagan picked up on that during arguments, saying that Texas could file its suit

in a courthouse where it was guaranteed to get a

sympathetic hearing and that one judge stopped "a

federal immigration policy in its tracks."

In a separate ongoing legal dispute, three judges chosen by then-President Donald Trump are among the four Republican-appointed judges who have so far prevented the administration's student loan cancellation program from taking effect.

The states said they would face added costs of having to detain people the federal government might allow to remain free inside the United States, despite their criminal records.

The federal appeals court in Cincinnati earlier overturned a district judge's order that put the policy on hold in a lawsuit filed by Arizona, Ohio and Montana. □

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## US dismisses Chinese objections to South China Sea mission

**(AP)** — The U.S. Navy on Tuesday dismissed Beijing's protests over a "freedom of navigation operation" conducted near a Chinese-held island in the South China Sea, in the latest incident drawing new attention to one of the world's potential military flashpoints.

The Navy said its guided missile cruiser USS *Chancellorsville* on Tuesday "asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands, consistent with international law."

China called the action illegal and said it mobilized naval and air assets to issue warnings and drive off the ship, a characterization the Navy and Pentagon disputed. China said the U.S. Navy's sail "seriously violated" its sovereignty and security,



and called it "further iron-clad evidence of its pursuit of navigational hegemony and militarization of the South China Sea," the

spokesperson for the Southern Theater Command, Air Force Col. Tian Junli, was quoted as saying.

The Navy's 7th Fleet, which

is responsible for U.S. naval operations in the region, issued a rebuttal, calling it "the latest in a long string of (Chinese) actions

to misrepresent lawful U.S. maritime operations and assert its excessive and illegitimate maritime claims" in the South China Sea. China claims the area virtually in its entirety.

The long-seething South China Sea territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have long been regarded as a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry in the region. While the U.S. lays no claims to the strategic waterway, where an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade transits each year, it has said that freedom of navigation and overflight is in America's national interest. The sea is also home to rich fishing stocks and a potential wealth of energy and mineral resources. □

## Mayor says NYC will treat mentally ill, even if they refuse

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Bidding to address a mental health crisis on New York City streets and subways, Mayor Eric Adams announced Tuesday that authorities would more aggressively intervene to get people into treatment, describing "a moral obligation" to act, even if it means involuntarily hospitalizing some.

"These New Yorkers and hundreds of others like them are in urgent need of treatment, yet often refuse it when offered," Adams said at a news conference, noting that the pervasive problem of mental illness has long been out in the open.

"No more walking by or looking away," the mayor said.

The mayor's directive marks the latest attempt to ease a crisis decades in the making. It would give outreach workers, city hospitals and first responders, including police, the discretion to involuntarily hospitalize anyone they deem a danger to themselves or unable to care for themselves.

"The very nature of their illnesses keeps them from



**Homeless Outreach personnel reach out to a person sleeping on a bench in the Manhattan subway system, Monday, Feb. 21, 2022, in New York.**

**Associated Press**

realizing they need intervention and support. Without that intervention, they remain lost and isolated from society, tormented by delusions and disordered thinking. They cycle in and out of hospitals and jails." State law generally limits the ability of authorities to force someone into treatment unless they are a danger to themselves, but Adams said it was a "myth" that the law required a

person to be behaving in an "outrageously dangerous" or suicidal way before a police officer or medical worker could take action. As part of its initiative, the city is developing a phone line that would allow police officers to consult with clinicians.

The mayor's announcement was met with caution by civil rights groups and advocates for the homeless.

A coalition of community groups, including the Legal Aid Society and several community-based defender services, said the mayor was correct in noting "decades of dysfunction" in mental health care. They argued state lawmakers "must no longer 'punt'" to address the crisis and approve legislation that would offer treatment, not jail, for people with mental health issues.

"We are heartened to hear that Mayor Adams acknowledges that community-based treatment and least-restrictive services must guide the path to rehabilitation and recovery," the groups said.

The mayor said he has begun deploying teams of clinicians and police officers to patrol the city's busiest subway stations.

In addition, the city is rolling out training to police officers and other first responders to help them provide "compassionate care" in situations that could cause the involuntary removal of a person showing signs of mental illness in public places.

"It is not acceptable for us to see someone who clearly needs help and walk past," Adams said in announcing the program. "We can no longer deny the reality that untreated psychosis can be a cruel and all-consuming condition that often requires involuntary intervention, supervised medical treatment, and long-term care. We will change the culture from the top down and take every action to get care to those who need it." □



## NATO renews membership vow to Ukraine, pledges arms and aid

By STEPHEN McGRATH,  
LORNE COOK and ELLEN  
KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)

— NATO doubled down Tuesday on its commitment to one day include Ukraine, a pledge that some officials and analysts believe helped prompt Russia's invasion this year. The world's largest security alliance also pledged to send more aid to Ukrainian forces locked in battle with Russian troops.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with NATO foreign ministers in Romania to drum up support for Ukraine as Russia bombards energy infrastructure ahead to the frigid winter. Russia cannot stop the alliance's expansion, NATO leaders said.

"NATO's door is open," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said before chairing the meeting in the capital, Bucharest. He highlighted that North Macedonia and Montenegro had recently joined NATO, and said that Russian President Vladimir Putin "will get Finland and Sweden as NATO members" soon. The Nordic neighbors



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, right, meets Romania's President Klaus Iohannis during his visit at the photo exhibit at the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest, Romania, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022.

Associated Press

applied for membership in April, concerned that Russia might target them next. "Russia does not have a veto" on countries joining, Stoltenberg said. "We stand by that, too, on membership for Ukraine." Some officials and analysts believe that move pressed on the NATO allies by former U.S. President George W. Bush was partly respon-

sible for the war that Russia launched on Ukraine in February. Stoltenberg said NATO expansion would not be hindered. "President Putin cannot deny sovereign nations to make their own sovereign decisions that are not a threat to Russia," the former Norwegian prime minister said. "I think what he's afraid of is democ-

racy and freedom, and that's the main challenge for him." Even so, Ukraine will not join NATO anytime soon. With the Crimean Peninsula annexed, and Russian troops and pro-Moscow separatists holding parts of the south and east, it's not clear what Ukraine's borders would even look like. Many of NATO's 30 allies believe the focus now

must solely be on defeating Russia, and Stoltenberg stressed that any attempt to move ahead on membership could divide them. "We are in the midst of a war and therefore we should do nothing that can undermine the unity of allies to provide military, humanitarian, financial support to Ukraine, because we must prevent President Putin from winning," he said.

Beyond Ukraine's immediate needs, NATO wants to see how it can help the country longer-term, by upgrading its Soviet-era equipment to the alliance's modern standards and providing more military training.

Slovak Foreign Minister Rastislav Kacer said the allies must help Ukraine so that "the transition to full membership will be very smooth and easy" once both NATO and Kyiv are ready for accession talks.

In a statement, the ministers vowed to help Ukraine rebuild once the war is over, saying: "we will continue to strengthen our partnership with Ukraine as it advances its Euro-Atlantic aspirations." □

## Census: Christians a minority in England; non-religious grow

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Fewer than half the people in England and Wales consider themselves Christian, according to the most recent census the first time a minority of the population has followed the country's official religion.

Britain has become less religious and less white in the decade since the last census, figures from the 2021 census released Tuesday by the Office for National Statistics revealed.

Some 46.2% of the population of England and Wales described themselves as Christian on the day of the 2021 census, down from 59.3% a decade earlier. The Muslim population grew from 4.9% to 6.5% of the total, while 1.7% identi-

fied as Hindu, up from 1.5%. More than 1 in 3 people 37% said they had no religion, up from 25% in 2011. The other parts of the U.K., Scotland and Northern Ireland, report their census results separately. Secularism campaigners said the shift should trigger a rethink of the way religion is entrenched in British society. The U.K. has state-funded Church of England schools, Anglican bishops sit in Parliament's upper chamber, and the monarch is "defender of the faith" and supreme governor of the church.

Andrew Copson, chief executive of the charity Humanists U.K., said "the dramatic growth of the non-religious" had made the U.K. "almost certainly one of the least religious coun-

tries on Earth."

"One of the most striking things about these results is how at odds the population is from the state itself," he said. "No state in Europe has such a religious set-up as we do in terms of law and public policy, while at the same time having such a non-religious population."

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, one of the most senior clerics in the Church of England, said the data was "not a great surprise," but was a challenge to Christians to work harder to promote their faith.

"We have left behind the era when many people almost automatically identified as Christian, but other surveys consistently show how the same people still seek spiritual truth and wis-

dom and a set of values to live by," he said.

Almost 82% of people in England and Wales identified as white in the census, down from 86% in 2011.

Some 9% said they were Asian, 4% Black and 3% from "mixed or multiple" ethnic backgrounds, while 2% identified with another ethnic group. □



The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby listens to debate at the General Synod in London, on Feb. 13, 2017.

Associated Press



# Panama confronts illegal trafficking of animals

By KATHIA MARTÍNEZ

Associated Press

**ANCON, Panama (AP)** — In a tropical forest beside the Panama Canal, two black-handed spider monkeys swing about their wire enclosure, balanced by their long tails. They arrived at this government rehabilitation center after environmental authorities seized them from people who had been keeping them as pets.

In the coming months, biologists and veterinarians will shift them to a diet mirroring what they would eat in the wild, help them re-learn skills to survive in the jungle and wean them from human contact.

Panamanian authorities are trying to raise awareness about the dangers to humans and wildlife of keeping wild animals in their homes. This month, Panama hosted the World Wildlife Conference, where participants voted to tighten restrictions on the international trade in animals and plants.

Black-handed spider monkeys are listed in the most endangered category of international species, and Panama's Ministry of Environment say they are in "critical danger." Trade in the monkeys is permitted



**Veterinarian Mariana Parks holds a toucan that was given medical care prior to being released back into the wild, at a Ministry of the Environment rehabilitation center in Panama City, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022.**

Associated Press

only in exceptional circumstances. "People don't understand they can't buy a wild animal from someone who doesn't have authorization to sell it," said Felipe Cruz, the Environment Ministry's adviser on environmental crimes.

"The environment can't take any more. We're at a critical point."

From January through September, Panama's Attorney General's Office had recorded 19 cases of wild

species trafficking and 14 cases of extraction of species that were protected or in danger of extinction. Shirley Binder, an adviser to the Environment Ministry, said the real extent of the problem could be greater. "The country is big, there could be cases that we don't have," Binder said. "We have formed strategic alliances with security sectors that now are conscious of the environmental issue, ... but we also need the

support of citizens generally so that when they see these cases they report them." Earlier this year, the government introduced a catalog with photographs and technical details to assist in the identification of the most commonly trafficked species.

The plan was to distribute it to security, border and customs authorities nationwide. Panamanian law strictly limits the possession of wildlife. The Environ-

ment Ministry issues permits to zoos, breeding centers or for the raising and consumption of some sources of protein such as deer and iguana, but not for endangered species.

Biologist Samuel Sucre operates one of those businesses, Natural Tanks, which has government permits allowing him to collect amphibians and reptiles from the wild and breed them for sale.

Sucre said the government closed down some "ghost farming" operations.

"These farms were claiming they were breeding the frogs, but in reality they were just field collecting them and then claiming that these were bred (on) their farm," Sucre said.

"The problem with the illegal trade in countries like mine, developing countries, people don't understand the value of that resource," Sucre said.

The people who want to sell animals go to residents of rural areas who have very little income and offer payment per frog.

He advocates instead for finding sustainable ways to commercialize some species so people can learn the value of the natural resources and make a living. □

# Russian diplomat says prisoner swap with U.S. remains possible

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russia and the United States have repeatedly been on the

verge of agreement on a prisoner exchange, a senior Russian diplomat said

Tuesday, adding that a deal is still possible before the year's end.

The Biden administration has been trying for months to negotiate the release of WNBA star Brittney Griner and another American jailed in Russia, Michigan corporate security executive Paul Whelan, including through a possible prisoner swap with Moscow.

Asked by reporters whether a swap is possible before the year's end, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov responded that "there always is a chance."

"Regrettably, there have been a few occasions when it seemed that a decision in favor of it was

about to be made, but it never happened," he said without elaborating.

"If that happened, it would undoubtedly send a positive signal that not everything is so utterly hopeless in Russian-U.S. relations," Ryabkov added. "Such a signal would be appropriate, if we could work it out."

He reiterated Moscow's call for the U.S. to discuss the issue discreetly and refrain from making public statements. He lamented that "Washington has been abusing 'loudspeaker diplomacy' instead of a quiet one, which didn't help us to do business."

Earlier this month, Briner began serving a nine-year sentence for drug posses-

sion at a Russian penal colony in Mordovia, about 350 kilometers (210 miles) east of Moscow, after a Russian court had rejected her appeal of her August's conviction.

The all-star center with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and two-time Olympic gold medal winner was detained in February when customs agents said they found vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

At her trial, Griner admitted to having the canisters in her luggage but testified she packed them inadvertently in her haste to make her flight and had no criminal intent. □



**WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner is escorted from a courtroom after a hearing in Khimki just outside Moscow, Russia, on Aug. 4, 2022.**

Associated Press



## Minister of Sustainable Development met with United Nations Development Program



**ORANJESTAD – Last Thursday, November 24, minister of Economic Affairs, Communication and Sustainable Development, mr. Geoffrey Wever had a meeting with Mr. Gerardo Noto, resident representative a.i. of the United Nations development Program for Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Trinidad & Tobago.**

The topics discussed during the meeting were the SISSTEM faculty at the University of Aruba, and imple-

mentation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Minister Wever is Territorial Authorizing Officer of Aruba, in which Wever has the charge and responsibility for the administration of projects with the European Union and regional projects. In this context, Aruba is in preparations to expand the Faculty of Sustainable Island Solutions through Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (SISSTEM) of the University of Aruba with funds of the Eu-



ropean Union through the '11th Development Fund'. UNDP together with Catholic University Leuven are also partners in this project.

Minister Wever, as minister of Sustainable Development, and UNDP as part of the United Nations exchanged ideas regarding the implementation of the

SDG framework of the United Nations in Aruba. The SDG framework emphasizes the importance of long-term planning and strategic partnerships in the process to achieve the goals. Each country has its own challenges of sustainable development on which to work. This is called "localization of SDGs" – meaning

the SDGs need to be translated to the needs of each country.

"I am happy with the partnership that we have with UNDP. It is important for a country to have strong local partnerships as well as internationally to advance common goals", Wever commented. □

## Aruba Dolphins won several medals at Naco 2022 Santo Domingo

**ORANJESTAD – Aruba Dolphins returned to Aruba this week after winning several medals with a team consisting of athletes attending their first international competition.**

Aruba Dolphins won the following:

- 2 Overall High Trophies;
- 1 Fina high Point;
- 9 Gold Medals;
- 8 Silver Medals;
- 2 Bronze Medals.

Aruba Dolphins achieved all these medals with 25

athletes, out of which most were participating in their first international competition. Surely an impressive achievement, seeing that there were 560 athletes, 47 clubs and ten countries competing in Naco y Santo Domingo.

Aruba Dolphins finished in 5th place, between big clubs in Latin America like Santo Domingo itself, Costa Rica and Ecuador.

Aruba Dolphins is known for producing great cali-



ber athletes and this was proven once again. Aside from the abovementioned medals, most athletes managed to reduce their times,

and here they have a lot of Personal Best.

Aruba Dolphins can look back to a very success-

ful Naco, and the team is proud of its blue-heart athletes.

Congratulations! □



## Farmers Market at the Ostrich Farm

Every first Sunday of the month the Ostrich Farm organized and facilitate the largest farmers market on the island. Everything sold during the farmers market are locally crafted, produced and grown. Locally artisans and farmers gather at the farmers market to showcase proudly their products.

You can find the best artisan bread & pastries, hot sauces, jams, cooking sauces, fresh egg and honey that comes from small beekeepers, vegetarian snacks from locally sourced beans call Dubaru.

Then you have the very talented local artisans that share their unique and one-of-a-kind art such as driftwood paintings, high quality jewelry, baby clothing, knitting products, ceramic mugs/cups and plates, Calabash art, organic soap and cosmetic and so much more!



The Farmer's market is held under a large, covered area so you can shop comfortably in the shade. The restaurant in the premises serves delicious local lunches and fresh fish when available. Ice cold local beer, smoothies, fresh fruit shakes and not to be missed serves the best shaved ice on the island!

And the Ostrich tours is of course offered as well.



For everybody young and old here is something to do, shop, relax and enjoy a great family outing and most of all come and support the local artisans and farmers every first Sunday of the month from 10:00 to 14:00, Matividiri 57, follow our facebookpage or Instagram @arubaostrichfarm and be notified for each upcoming farmers market



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## Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

## Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

## Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

## Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

## Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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## Threat to Aruba's succulents

Episode CLXXXII- 182

Etnia Nativa through Island Insight shares native cultural awareness educates and safeguards Aruba's heritage and encourage readers to experiment island keeper state of mind. During this episode we want to raise awareness how climate change in having the same impact here on our island and everywhere.

We live in a society in which individuals have less and less time to practice personal time or meditation. Nature's healing wonder has been observed and collected for an impossible to mention purposes. For many having contact with peace of nature is to release accumulated energy in to a relaxing creative.

Therefore taking care of some specific plant collection can do a great job. Growing your herbs, collecting orchids, grow veggies or design a succulent garden to discover how plants or a garden provide relaxation charging by grounding yourself to a free natural lifestyle benefits. Caring for plants offers a direct relationship with the environment of inner peace those readers who already are practical gardeners, have an outdoor succulent collection and happen to live on Aruba, inspect your collection, since due to constant rain that you're rare, endangered or vulnerable varieties can rot and putrefy completely.

We had to repot many small succulents this week at Etnia Nativa's garden, preventing their mother root to absorb too much water and saving the plant. It is this same reason of absorbing too much rain water that provoke roads sides cactus which locals referred to as "cadushi golos" or greedy cactus to for having drunken excess water. The gained weight breaks the roots causing the whole tree to fall. An Old Portuguese friend of our island had a saying "água di mais mata planta" - too much water kills the plant. But rain also makes the island green and refreshes everything.

Contact with nature can also be to go for a half or one hour walk through Aruba's landscape and discover its unique vegetation and archaic cultural landscape.



Thorny shrub, tree cactus, and agave varieties are abundant, though not in large numbers of species varieties. Seeds of plants that grow in wild are dispersed by wind and fauna, especially birds and bats feasting of their delicious fruits and nectar not forgetting insects.

Studies have indicated that the knock-on effects of climate change, global warming and the exploitation of natural resources of our tourist industry have a significant impact on plant growth and ecosystems everywhere.

Succulent are plants thickened, fleshy, and engorged, usually to retain water in arid climates or soil conditions. The word succulent comes from the Latin word sucus, meaning 'juice', or 'sap'. Like for example many of our island cactuses and vegetation in general are plants that store water in stems or leaves and

plants that have developed special talents, and survival skills, adapted with wonderful shapes, colors, and textures like we can encounter in the Aruban landscape.

Unfortunately most recent studies has indicates that 75 percent of all plants including our cacti as well as many species of which are tolerant to extreme heat – could be threatened with extinction due to climate change and habitat loss. These new scientific opinions challenge the long-held assumption that these iconic desert plants will thrive with more heat and humidity.

Now if you love Aruba, intrigued by its origins and its cultural heritage there is no other place we encourage you to visit, while doing something different and unique outside the tourist grid. Become one of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa. A private residential set up were you will be able to touch and be touched by authentic Aruba traditions, an spectacle of native art, archaic as well as archaeological artifacts, lithic tools colonial furniture and historical items. Get inside a recycled environment fully of peace and relaxation, knowledge and information.



Etnia Nativa is since 1994 the home of Anthony our acclaimed, columnist, local artist and island expert who is guide and lectures through his resplendent home. Here is the sole place to recreate and be introduced to an authentic glimpse into Aruba and a contemporary native experience! Appointment is required. + 297 592 2702 or. etnianativa03@gmail.com



## Presentation of Dr. Coen van Galen of the Radboud University in Nijmegen: Project to connect Aruba's archives to those in Curaçao and Suriname To form a network to give insight on migration after the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean

ORANJESTAD – Recently, the University of Aruba together with the Commission for Awareness of Slavery of the Ministry of Finance and Culture organized an informational evening, during which Dr. Coen van Galen of the University of Radboud in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, gave a talk titled 'Borderless Slavery and Freedom in the Caribbean'.

In front of an audience of interested parties, Dr. Van Galen gave information regarding the project to connect the archives of the countries in the Caribbean with the goal of finding out more about the migration of people that took place after the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean.

Dr. Van Galen explained that until now the project to connect the archives consists of an international network of archives between Suriname and Curaçao. Currently, work is being carried out so that

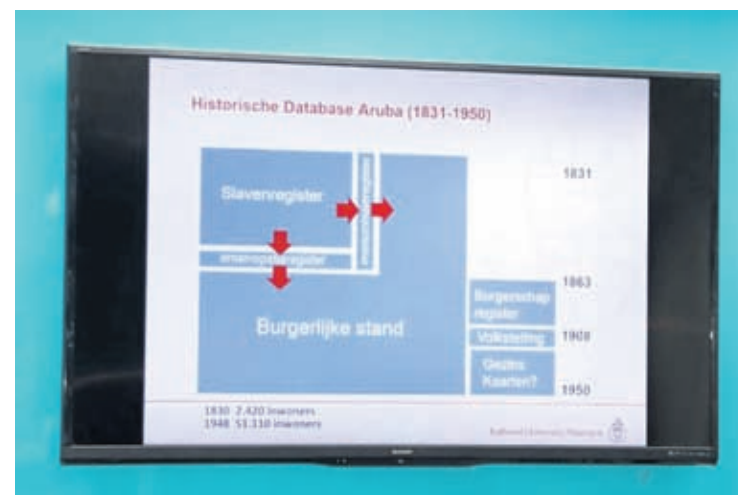
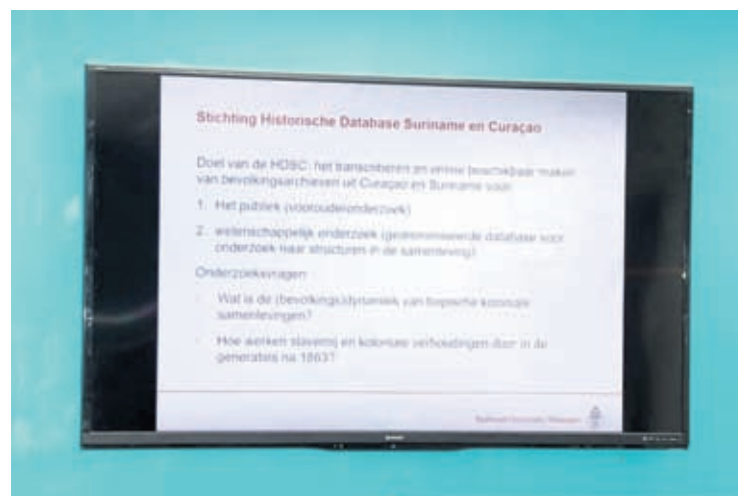


Aruba can also connect to the network. Surely now that Aruba has advanced greatly on digitalization and making our historical documents accessible, it will be ideal for Aruba's historical information to also be available on the international network.

The connection with these archives is important for all those who want to know more about their ancestors and their link to the islands in the Caribbean. The information is important also to be able to do research

on structures within society after the abolition of slavery. This way, insight can be gained also on how slavery and colonialism affected the generations after the abolition of slavery and until now.

Minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro thanked Dr. Van Galen for the thorough explanation and for his interest in having Aruba also connected to this international network. During the talk, minister Maduro informed those present regarding the important work being done by the National Library of Aruba (BNA) and the National Archive of Aruba (ANA) to continue digitalization and making our cultural heritage accessible. The minister invited all those present to watch the two special programs "Making our cultural heritage accessible" which were broadcasted



on television, in order to inform on the efforts made to digitalize and make our cultural heritage acces-

sible. Both programs are available via the YouTube channel of minister Xiomara Maduro. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Veep of the Supreme Court
  - 6 Lingerie items
  - 10 Ready for bed
  - 11 Oyster product
  - 12 Without aid
  - 13 Kitchen fixture
  - 14 Circus sight
  - 15 Dipping dish
  - 16 Wedding words
  - 17 Quick taste
  - 18 So far
  - 19 Brain layers
  - 22 Very bright
  - 23 Woodwind part
  - 26 Whirlpools
  - 29 Used to be
  - 32 Beam of light
  - 33 Touch lightly
  - 34 Response to a joke
  - 36 App makeup
  - 37 Turning point
  - 38 Neighsayer

- DOWN**
- 39 Kagan
  - 40 Door sign
  - 41 Turn down
  - 42 Buttes' kin
  - 1 Unmoving
  - 2 Kept adding
  - 3 Magnetite, e.g.
  - 4 Monthly bill
  - 5 Keats work
  - 6 Noggin
  - 7 Lustful
  - 8 Have a spat
  - 9 Wintry weather
  - 11 Investment choice
  - 15 Mend
  - 17 Mexican miss
  - 20 "Mazel —!"
  - 21 Spot
  - 24 Sends overseas
  - 25 Salt lake of the Mideast
  - 27 Scoundrel
  - 28 Takes the wheel
  - 29 Used a sponge
  - 30 Sprightly
  - 31 Middling card
  - 35 Theater award
  - 36 Volcano shape
  - 38 Clothes line

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Yesterday's answer

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AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

RJQTP NIAJ OWV FDIHDN VTR

JWMWJWTDN. VF QE QO QF

OGW VBQF IT HGQLG OGW

HIJDR WVJOG JWMIDMWF.

OGQLG TGVO GVTG

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TAKING "NAPS" SOUNDS SO CHILDISH. I PREFER TO CALL THEM "HORIZONTAL LIFE PAUSES." — UNKNOWN

## Millennial Money: 4 reasons for thrift store gifts this year

KELSEY SHEEHY of NerdWallet

Thrifting is hot, and Goodwill finds are cool again. But while we're thrilled to find the perfect throwback tee for our own closet, gifting used goods still carries a stigma for some. It shouldn't.

Secondhand gifts are better for your wallet, your community and the environment. "The planet is drowning in excess stuff," says Lauren Bravo, 34, the London-based author of "How to Break Up With Fast Fashion."

"It feels more sustainable to buy from things that are already out there in the world than adding to the demand for more, more, more."

Not convinced? Here are four big benefits of secondhand gifts, plus a few tips and ideas to help you thrift a gift this holiday season.

### THE CASE FOR SECONDHAND GIFTS

**1. IT'S BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:** Fast fashion and fast furniture generate an incredible amount of waste. In 2018 alone, nearly 21 million tons of textile waste, furniture and furnishings ended up in landfills, according to the most recent data published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Buying a sweatshirt, jacket, vase, side table or virtually any other thrifted item keeps it from landing in a heap at the dump or on some foreign shore (where much of our donated clothing lands). Most secondhand purchases are made locally, too, so you avoid many of the environmental impacts



In this June 9, 2021, file photo, a sign announces that a Goodwill store is open in Santa Monica, Calif.

Associated Press

that go along with packaging and shipping items.

### 2. SECONDHAND IS MORE BUDGET-FRIENDLY:

You may have noticed, but everything is more expensive right now (inflation hit a 40-year high in September). Even with rising prices, buying secondhand is almost always less expensive than buying new.

This author was recently gifted a set of eight vintage cocktail glasses, which my parents scored for 50 cents apiece at a local thrift store. (Yes, they left the price tags on.) A similar set from Anthropologie currently sells for \$56 for a set of four.

And Bravo says shopping thrift shops allows her to gift higher-quality items.

"I can afford to buy pricier brands for people if I get things secondhand," she says.

"And, frankly, they're often still brand new in their box."

### 3. YOU SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES:

Vintage shops and thrift stores are almost always small businesses and they're counting on your support this holiday season.

In fact, 73% of small-busi-

ness owners say holiday sales like Black Friday and Small Business Saturday are important to the success of their business, according to a new NerdWallet survey of over 3,000 U.S. adults (including more than 900 small-business owners) conducted online by The Harris Poll from Oct. 3-5, 2022.

Money spent at small local shops typically stays in the community, supporting jobs and other businesses. Popular nonprofit thrift stores like Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity ReStore give back to the local community in many other ways, too. Sales from items purchased at Habitat ReStores, for example, help to build and rehabilitate homes for local families.

### 4. THRIFTED GIFTS HAVE A HISTORY:

There can be something special about a book, handbag or article of clothing previously owned by someone else. The item lived another life and sometimes quite literally has the notes to prove it.

"My wife bought me a book of love poems from a secondhand bookstore, where the previous (book) owner and his/her partner wrote notes to each other," says Michael Morris, 45, who lives in Brooklyn and runs a men's lifestyle website. "It's a book of love poems with a real-life love story in the margins, and it's unbelievably touching. It's one of my prized possessions." □

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## Competitors chip away at Tesla's US electric vehicle share

By TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

**DETROIT (AP)** — New electric vehicle models from multiple automakers are starting to chip away at Tesla's dominance of the U.S. EV market, according to national vehicle registration data.

But numbers collected by S&P Global Mobility show that Tesla still controlled about 65% of the growing electric vehicle market during the first nine months of this year. And the competitors made gains in the sticker price range below \$50,000, where Tesla barely competes.

From 2018 through 2020, Tesla had about 80% of the EV market. Its share dropped to 71% in 2021 and has continued to decline, said Stephanie Brinley, an S&P associate director.

"Tesla's position is changing as new, more affordable options arrive, offering equal or better technology and production build," S&P Global Mobility said in a statement Tuesday. "Given that consumer choice and consumer interest in EVs is growing, Tesla's ability to retain a dominant market share will be challenged going forward."

According to S&P, electric vehicles have picked up 2.4 percentage points of U.S. market share this year, growing to 5.2% of all light vehicle registrations. Of the 525,000 electric vehicles registered during the first nine months of the year, about 65%, or 340,000, were Teslas, S&P said.



Tesla Supercharger is seen at Willow Festival shopping plaza parking lot in Northbrook, Ill., on May 5, 2022.

Despite the smaller market share, Tesla will continue to see its sales grow as consumer interest increases, Brinley said. "The EV market in 2022 is a Tesla market, and it will continue to be so long as competitors are bound by production capacity," she said.

A shortage of computer chips and other parts has stopped many competitors such as Ford, General Motors, Hyundai, Kia and Volkswagen from running factories at full capacity to meet demand.

Tesla also faces competition at the higher end of the market from BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Polestar, Rivian, Lucid and others.

S&P said there are 48 EV models on sale in the U.S.

at present, and it expects that to grow to 159 by the end of 2025.

Tesla plans to introduce its Cybertruck pickup next year, and a new Roadster at an undefined date, but otherwise its light-vehicle model lineup in 2025 will be the same as it is now, S&P said. The company has plans to deliver some electric semis to PepsiCo on Thursday.

S&P also found that consumers who bought battery-electric vehicles so far this year largely had owned Honda and Toyota vehicles before switching. Both companies have fuel-efficient internal combustion and hybrid models, but have been slow to roll out EVs in the U.S. Toyota

has only one model, while Honda won't have any until 2024.

Tesla's Model Y small SUV and Model 3 small sedan were the top 2 SUVs, accounting for more than half of all electric vehicle registrations, Brinley said. Ford's Mustang Mach-E was third, followed by two more Teslas, the Model S sedan and X SUV.

Rounding out the top 10 EVs were the Chevrolet Bolt sedan and SUV, Hyundai Ioniq 5, Kia EV6, Volkswagen ID.4 and Nissan Leaf. □

Associated Press



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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

#### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
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**Assistant Director**  
Xiomara Arends

**Editors**  
Pilar Flores  
Richard Brooks  
Angenette Figueroa

**Sales**  
Mark Gomes  
Sulaika Croes

**Classifieds**  
classified@cspnv.com

**Distribution and Collection**  
accounting@bondia.com

**Social / Website**  
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
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# Apple Music reveals top music in 2022 and listener charts

By **MARK KENNEDY**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — “Stay,” the smash hit by The Kid Laroi and Justin Bieber topped Apple Music’s global song chart in 2022 as the giant music streamer released its end-of-year lists and provided listeners with data on their own most listened-to tunes.

“Stay,” which stayed atop the Billboard Hot 100 for seven weeks this summer, was No. 1 on Apple Music’s top 100 global songs chart, staying on top for 51 days straight. Elton John and Dua Lipa’s “Cold Heart (PNAU Remix)” was No. 1 on the streamer’s Shazam chart and “We Don’t Talk About Bruno” from the movie musical “Encanto” was the song with the most-read lyrics in 2022 on the platform.

Joining “Stay” at the very top of the global songs list were “As It Was” by Harry Styles, “Wait For U” by Future featuring Drake and Tems, “Super Gremlin” by Kodak Black, “Easy on Me” by Adele, and “Heat Wave” by Glass Animals. Hip-hop continued to lead the different genres on the global top 100 with 32 songs, followed by pop with 23 songs and R&B/soul in third place with 11 songs. The data shows the grow-



**The Kid Laroi appears at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards in Las Vegas on April 3, 2022, left, and Justin Bieber appears at The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute benefit gala in New York on Sept. 13, 2021.**

ing presence of non-English-language tunes, with African songs on the rise on the Shazam chart as well as the global daily 100, while Japanese-language songs made big gains on the most-read lyrics chart.

“It’s really the rise of what was once very niche genres creeping into the mainstream, which is an exciting new development on the platform,” said Rachel Newman, global head of editorial. Twenty-

one non-English songs were in the global Top 100, more than double the number of songs last year. Fifty-five Latin songs reached the Global Daily Top 100 in 2022 up 22% from 2021. In 2022, six of the the 50 J-pop songs to reach the chart placed in the top 10; last year none were in the top 10. The streamer began notifying users Tuesday that Apple Music Replay was ready. The feature lets users see and hear their favorite

songs, albums, artists and playlists from the past year as well as total minutes on the service. One new feature is that superfans can discover whether they are in the top 100 listeners of their favorite artist or genre. Replay Apple’s alternative to Spotify’s Wrapped playlist has been redesigned with new, sleek functionality and optimized for sharing on social media like TikTok or Instagram. The charts are dynamic all year, so lis-

**Associated Press**

teners can check any time to see how their music is charting. Eligibility is based on a threshold of plays and time spent listening.

In November, Apple Music crowned the Puerto Rican reggaeton superstar Bad Bunny its Artist of the Year, thanks in large part to his latest album, “Un Verano Sin Ti,” which became Apple Music’s most streamed album of 2022 and its biggest Latin album of all time. Apple Music had a big 2022 itself, hitting a milestone in October when it recorded its 100 millionth song on the streaming service. That’s more than YouTube Music’s 80 million songs, Spotify’s 82 million tracks and podcasts, and Amazon Music’s 90 million songs.

“One hundred million songs for us is really significant because I think it is such a kind of great reflection of just how diverse and enormous the music world is these days,” Newman said. “It’s the largest and most diverse collection of music in any kind of format ever in the history of music, which is just pretty astounding.” Streaming service Pandora also revealed its top songs Tuesday: “Wait For U” was its top track of 2022 and Bad Bunny had the most songs on the top 100 list with five. □

## Kim Kardashian, Ye reach divorce settlement



**FILE - Kanye West, left, and Kim Kardashian attend the WSJ. Magazine Innovator Awards on Nov. 6, 2019, in New York. Kardashian and Ye, who legally changed his name from Kanye West, have reached a settlement in their divorce, averting a trial that had been set for next month, court documents filed Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022, showed. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File)**

**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Kim Kardashian and Ye have reached a settlement in

their divorce, averting a trial that had been set for next month, court documents filed Tuesday showed.

The former couple and their attorneys filed documents asking for a judge’s approval of terms they have agreed on, including \$200,000 per month child support payments from Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, to Kardashian.

The two will have joint custody, and neither will pay the other spousal support, according to the documents filed in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The judge declared the two legally single at Kardashian’s request in March, ending their eight-year marriage, but issues of property and custody remained that were to be worked out in a trial starting Dec. 14.

The couple began dating in 2012 and had their first child in 2013. West proposed later that year using the giant screen at the empty waterfront ballpark of the San Francisco Giants, and the two married May 24, 2014, in a ceremony at a Renaissance fortress in Florence, Italy.

The two appeared to be headed for a cordial split with agreed-upon terms when Kardashian first filed for divorce in February of 2021. Neither discussed the split publicly until early this year, when Ye started lashing out on social media against Kardashian, her family, and then-boyfriend Pete Davidson. Among his

complaints were that he was not being allowed to make major parenting decisions and was being excluded from birthday parties and other events for their children.

Ye, who has fired two lawyers since the divorce filing, also raised several technical issues and demands, including seeking the right to question any new husband of Kardashian’s under oath, which Judge Steve Cochran promptly rejected. The settlement comes soon after several companies have cut ties with Ye over offensive and antisemitic remarks that have further eroded an already withering public image. □



## Netherlands beats host Qatar 2-0 to advance at World Cup

By ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

AL KHOR, Qatar (AP) —

The Netherlands still has a long way to go to match the “total football” teams of the 1970s, or even the more offensive “Oranje” squads that reached the World Cup final in 2010 and finished third in 2014.

Still, a 2-0 win over Qatar on Tuesday ensured the Dutch advanced to the round of 16 by finishing first in Group A while the Qataris, who were already eliminated, became the first host to lose all three of its group matches at the World Cup.

“If you play against Qatar everybody will think and expect that you’ll win 5-0 or more, but this tournament has shown that it’s very difficult,” Netherlands midfielder Davy Klaassen, who earned player of the match honors, said through a translator.

“We’re very critical of ourselves and we need to improve,” Klaassen added. “But we have progressed and we’re going to move on.”

Cody Gakpo put the Netherlands ahead midway through the first half with his third goal in as many matches and Frenkie de Jong doubled the advantage five minutes into the second half.



Frankie de Jong, of the Netherlands, scores his side's second goal during the World Cup group A soccer match between the Netherlands and Qatar, at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022.

Associated Press

The Netherlands is a three-time runner-up at the World Cup, and also finished third in 2014, while Qatar was making its tournament debut. Qatar won the 2019 Asian Cup but the team's Spanish coach, Felix Sanchez, said that tournament can't be compared to the World Cup.

“We came here trying to compete and we managed to do that,” Sanchez said, adding that he wasn't sure about his future status with the team.

“One of the things about our national team is that we have a long-term plan that doesn't depend on me or anyone else,” Sanchez said. “We’re going to rest for a few days and

we’re going to keep working and planning.”

The Netherlands, which failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, finished with seven points at the top of the group. Senegal, which beat Ecuador 2-1 in the other group game, advanced in second place with six points. Ecuador was eliminated with four points and Qatar ended up with zero. The attendance at Al Bayt Stadium, which also hosted Qatar's loss to Ecuador in the tournament opener, was given as 66,784 nearly at full capacity. There were small pockets of orange-clad Netherlands supporters, and Qatar fans behind one of the goals chanted in unison and jumped up

and down.

At one point during the second half, Qatar fans held aloft a large Palestinian flag that said “Free Palestine” on it.

In the 26th minute, Gakpo took control outside the area, dribbled forward and unleashed a powerful side-footed shot between two defenders that entered inside the right post.

Gakpo became the fourth Dutch player to score in three consecutive World Cup games after Johan Neeskens (1974), Dennis Bergkamp (1994) and Wesley Sneijder (2010). He also became only the second player to open the scoring for his team three times in the same group stage after Alessandro Altobelli for Italy in 1986.

“Cody Gakpo has everything it takes to become a star,” 71-year-old Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal said. “Plus he has a wonderful personality. He’s open minded to everything.”

De Jong's goal came when he sprinted forward uncontested to knock in a rebound from close range following a shot from Memphis Depay.

A possible third goal for the Netherlands by Steven Berghuis was waved off following a video review for a

**FIFA WORLD CUP  
Qatar 2022**

Group A	
NED	ECU
1 - 2	nov 29
ECU	SEN
2 - 0	nov 29
NED	QAT

Group B	
ENG	USA
0 - 1	nov 29
IRN	USA
0 - 3	nov 29
WAL	ENG

Group C	
POL	ARG
- -	nov 30
KSA	MEX
- -	nov 30

Group D	
TUN	FRA
- -	nov 30
AUD	DEN
- -	nov 30

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handball in the buildup. Berghuis then hit the bar in added time. □

## Rodgers says he plans to play Sunday when Packers face Bears

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) —

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers says he expects to play Sunday at Chicago after a rib injury knocked him out of a 40-33 loss at Philadelphia.

“I got good news with the scans yesterday, so I plan on playing this week,” Rodgers said Tuesday on “The Pat McAfee Show” on YouTube and SiriusXM.

Rodgers left in the second half against the Eagles because of the rib injury. He already has been playing with a broken right thumb, an injury he sustained on the final play of a 27-22 loss to the New York Giants on Oct. 9.

“There was an earlier shot

in the game that kind of rattled the ribcage,” Rodgers said. “I was trying to stretch some things out at



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers reacts during the second half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

halftime a little bit and realized it probably wasn't some sort of muscle injury. And I just got hit again in

the third quarter and was just having a hard time breathing.”

Packers coach Matt LaFleur had said Monday that Rodgers was feeling better, but added the team would know more about the four-time MVP's status in the next couple of days.

Rodgers said he wouldn't be surprised if the injury limited his practice time.

“I might miss practice Wednesday and not be a full contributor, but that's kind of been standard for the last, I don't know, six or seven weeks,” Rodgers said. “(We'll) go to one of my favorite places to play down in Chicago and hopefully get a big win,

get into the bye week, get healthy and see where we can get to.”

The Packers (4-8) still have a slim chance of reaching the playoffs heading into their game with the Bears (3-9).

Rodgers said after the Eagles game that he wanted to keep playing through these injuries as long as the Packers still have a chance of making the postseason. Rodgers also offered praise Tuesday for Jordan Love, the 2020 first-round pick who took over for him in the Eagles game and went 6 of 9 for 113 yards with a touchdown.

“It was really nice to watch,” Rodgers said. □



# Tiger Woods doesn't 'have much left in this leg' to compete

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

**NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)** —

Tiger Woods painted an uncertain picture about how much golf he can play, saying Tuesday that "I don't have much left in this leg."

He also doesn't have much hope the PGA Tour and the Saudi-funded rival league can get along unless Greg Norman is out as LIV Golf's leader.

"Not right now. Not with their leadership. Not with Greg there and his animosity toward the tour itself," Woods said. "I don't see that happening."

Rory McIlroy also said in Dubai two weeks ago that Norman needs to "exit stage left" before there can be any meaningful discussions between the PGA Tour and LIV Golf.

Woods artfully skirted around other questions on Tuesday, such as details on two unexpected surgeries he had last year and whether the 20-man field at the Hero World Challenge should be getting points toward the world ranking.

He was forceful on the effect of LIV Golf, referring to friction the rival league has caused and how lawsuits stand in the way of any reconciliation.

"If one side has so much animosity someone try-



**Tiger Woods, of the United States, stands on the 11th hole during the first round of the British Open golf championship on the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, on July 14, 2022.**

Associated Press

ing to destroy our tour then how do we work with that?" Woods said.

Phil Mickelson was among 10 players who filed an antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour in August, a lawsuit since taken over by LIV Golf. Bryson DeChambeau, Peter Uihlein and Matt Jones are the only players still involved as plaintiffs. The PGA Tour since has filed a countersuit. A trial date is tentatively scheduled for January 2024.

Woods said the lawsuits would have to be settled he used the word "stay" on

more than one occasion or there is no way forward.

Woods is at Albany Golf Club strictly as the tournament host.

He had to withdraw on Monday because of plantar fasciitis in his right foot that makes it too difficult to walk over 72 holes, even on a relatively flat course for a holiday event.

Woods said he was posting low scores at home in Florida while riding in a cart. And his next two events a made-for-TV match over 12 holes on Dec. 10, and the PNC Championship with his

son the following weekend allow for carts.

"I can hit the golf ball and hit whatever shot you want," he said. "I just can't walk."

He said the plantar fasciitis was related to injuries he suffered in the Los Angeles car crash in February 2021, which ended any hope of him playing on a regular basis.

A year ago, Woods was just starting to take full swings with the driver and his ambition was to make it to St. Andrews for the 150th edition of the British Open. He

wound up playing the Masters and the PGA Championship, too.

That amounted to nine rounds four at Augusta National, three at the PGA Championship (he withdrew after the third round) and two at St. Andrews.

Woods felt he was making progress in the months after the British Open, only to hurt his right foot while trying to prepare for a 72-hole event in the Bahamas.

"When you get plantar fasciitis, the worst thing you can do is walk, and I was walking more and more and more, trying to get my legs ready for this event, and I just kept making it worse," he said. "So had to shut it down."

He said he would take a month or two to rest, which won't affect his golf schedule because he wasn't going to play that much, anyway.

"The goal is to play just the major championships and maybe one or two more. That's it. Physically, that's all I can do. I told you that (at) the beginning of this year, too," he said.

"I mean, I don't have much left in this leg, so gear up for the biggest ones and hopefully, lightning catches in a bottle and I'm up there in contention with a chance to win, and hopefully, I remember how to do that." □

## Free agent Abreu signs \$58.5M. 3-year deal with Astros

**HOUSTON (AP)** — José Abreu and the World Series champion Astros agreed to a \$58.5 million, three-year contract Monday, adding another powerful bat to Houston's lineup.

Abreu, the 2020 AL MVP, gets \$19.5 million in each of the next three seasons.

He spent his first nine major league seasons with the Chicago White Sox. The first baseman became a free agent after batting .304 with 15 home runs, 75 RBIs and an .824 OPS this year. With the Astros, he replaces Yuli Gurriel at first base in a batting order that also features All-Star sluggers Yor-

dan Alvarez, Jose Altuve, Alex Bregman and Kyle Tucker. Gurriel became a free agent after Houston defeated the Philadelphia Phillies this month for its second World Series championship.

The 35-year-old Abreu becomes the biggest free agent to switch teams so far this offseason. Born in Cuba, the three-time All-Star and 2014 AL Rookie of the Year is a .292 career hitter in the majors with 243 homers, 863 RBIs and an .860 OPS.

The Astros announced the signing Monday night. Abreu was scheduled to

be introduced in a news conference Tuesday morning at Minute Maid Park.

He would get a \$200,000 for winning an MVP award, \$175,000 for finishing second in the voting, \$150,000 for third, \$125,000 for fourth and \$100,000 for fifth. Abreu also would get \$100,000 for earning World Series MVP and \$75,000 for League Championship Series MVP, \$75,000 for making the All-Star team and \$75,000 for winning a Gold Glove or a Silver Slugger.

Abreu gets a hotel suite on road trips and the right to buy a luxury suite for all Astros home games. □



**Chicago White Sox's Jose Abreu hits an RBI-double during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Minneapolis.**

Associated Press